

Going Too Far South (Gen 12:6-12)

When I got off of work in the evening I drove on 27 South over the O'Fallon bridge. As I was leaving Chattanooga, 27 splits into 24 East & West. One day I was leaving work with every intention of stopping at the church before I go home. I'm driving toward the split and the normal routine took over and I ended up on 24 West home and not 24 East toward the church. I remember going up that ramp wanting 24 East get farther and farther away. I think I just gone too far in the wrong direction. I had to go all the way to Tipton to turn back around to head for church. That is much like Abram's situation in text. He went ~~too~~ far away from God and paid the price for it. We all...

I. A Believing Man ch 12:1-4

A. There is no doubt that Abram (later Abraham) was a great man. And yet he was a man, born of seed of Adam and in need of God's salvation.

B. God Revealed (v13) Abram wasn't looking for God. He wasn't reaching for God, yet God revealed himself to Abram out of grace. Abram was a sinful man, born in a sinful land. But God in His foreknowledge saw

the responsive heart of Abram and proceeded to walk onto the stage of his life. God revealed his word & way to Abram. God made promises to Abram conditioned upon his response (Gen 12:1-3, Gen 15:1-6, Gen 17:1-2, Gen 21:2-5, Gen 22:1-8, 9)

C. Abram Responded^{VS4} After God reveals it is the duty of man to respond, God did not drag Abram out of Haran. VS4. Abram obeyed God in faith. He left all that he knew w/ for a place that God would show him. Abram trusts God at His word. This is what saving faith^{VS4} today! In the revealed word of God, a most sinful heading for Judgment, God provided a way of escape, His Son's shed blood on the cross and by trusting in His son a man can have eternal life and be cleared of guilt, Yes! Gen 15:6

II. A Bad Move - We find Abram then moving into the land of Canaan. The place of God's promise VS7. A place of Community w/ God. Bethel - House of God Hal - Place of ruin, living life in between. But then verse 9

B. Wandered away from Bethel - it is as though the text screams you are going the wrong way! You are headed in the wrong direction! Notice that this direction is taking him further away from Bethel, the place of God. It is always a bad move when we wander from the way toward God. Pilgrim Progress Pilgrim + Faithful wander off the way to a smoother path but it led to their capture and imprisonment in the Castle of Dispair. Do it wander from the House of God, the word of God, the path of God.

C. Wandered toward Egypt - VS10 God sent a famine into the land. Since Abram was in a farther distance to Egypt than to Bethel, when difficulty came, the path of least resistance was toward Egypt. When the famine hit we don't find Abram calling on

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

to son of man. And he said unto him, Thou art the prophet of God. Then said Jesus unto him, Go thy way; for I have sent thee to them which will hear thee not, that they may hear thee; and thou shalt find no man of thy country that will receive thee. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as thou goest, remember that I have chosen thee to be a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest bring salvation unto them. And he said unto him, Lord, where shall I go? He said unto him, Behold, I send thee into the world, but unto thee give I power over the unclean spirits, and to heal all manner of disease and all manner of sickness. And he said unto him, Behold, I send thee as a prophet unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And he said unto him, See thou enter not into the cities of the Samaritans; for I send thee not unto them. But into the harvest whereof the labourers are few, I send thee; and thou shouldest gather them into my harvest. And he said unto him, I will go, Lord; let me first go and bid my father and mother, because I come to you. And Jesus said unto him, Leave them; for mine Father's harvest is great, but the labourers are few. Therefore go forth into the highways of the world, and as thou goest, thou shall find men ready to go with thee.

Genesis 15:6 And he said unto him, Look up now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if there be so many; and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

Isaiah 57:11 And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

Numbers 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

God to meet His needs, no! Because he was not where he ought to be with God we find his journey down to Egypt, which is the type of the world. How many times have I seen it. The child of God comes to the place of fellowship w/ God, God speaking, then the difference

^{vs 11-20} ^{Hab.}
III. A Big Mistake - This movement of Abram away from God toward Egypt only started a downward spiral of sin and separation from God. When we allow our affections to cool and we can easily find ourselves on a slippery slope of

B. The Deceit - vs 11-13 Abram did not trust God for his needed protection, but began to spin a web of lies and half-truths. He had left behind the words of verse 3 "the promises of God." But looked to his own cunning to save his hide. Tell the truth let the cross fall.

C. The Descent - It starts with a little lie a half truth and then it descended into greed and covetousness. vs 15-16. Abram began to profit off of his lies. It is always the case that sin leads to sin that leads to further + further sin.

D. The Discovery - vs 12-18 ^{Numbers 32:23} _{AA} What we sow we reap. "Sin is the greatest detective it always gets its man." God had a hand in the uncovering of the sin. It was all brought out into the light. What a blight upon the God that Abram claimed.

E. The Demand - 14B Get out of here. What a shame. Abram who God promised to be father of many nations, kicked out because of lies. God's name and reputation is dragged through the gutter where no one would want to sin.

IV A Blessed Moment - But however deeply humiliating and public our sin is its affect is one in which we are driven back to God. Heb 12:6
What a blessed moment when he returned to God.

B. His Return - There had to be an about face. A change in direction to start back toward the Canaan Land. This is called repentance. When we come to Christ we repent, but we continue to repent. Abram's Journey to the south is a common problem with each of us. We still live in the flesh that desires the things of world. But we must daily offer ourselves ^{to God, Repent}.

C. His Remembrance - He just didn't go back to any old spot in Canaan land but it was back to the house of God, to Bethel. He might have left Egypt with great wealth, but no wealth can sooth the conscience and make one right with God. Abram remembered there was a place where he had once heard from God, once directed, ^{to God and to respond} you can come back.

D. His Restoration - 4b He called on the name of the Lord! There was no alters made down in Egypt. No commanding in that Land at last ¹⁰ verses later that God is speaking to Abram again, till God was directing him again. Restoration is available, ^{verses} vss 1-18. You can be restored.

V Closing - Have you veered off course? That day I wanted to drive off that ramp into the grass and on the right way, I couldn't. But if your spiritual life is going in the wrong direction, you can cut a tract directly to Bethel, and not waste life in Egypt!

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.